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Gen. Glap in Algiers

ALGIER, Jan. 5 (R) — General Vo Nguyen Giap, the North Vietnamese Defence Minister, Monday met Algerian President Houari Boumedienne, the Algerian news agency APS reported.

The General arrived Sunday for "an official visit of friendship" after attending the first congress of the Cuban Communist Party in Havana.

He laid a wreath at a monument for Algerians who died in the War for Independence from France.

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JORDAN TIMES

جوردين تايز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانكليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية « الراي »

Mrs. Castle wants M.E. to buy British

LONDON, Jan. 5 (R). — British Social Affairs Secretary Mrs. Barbara Castle will fly to Saudi Arabia Tuesday to launch a drive to sell British equipment in the Middle East, the Department of Health announced Monday.

Mrs. Castle will discuss with Middle Eastern health ministers and officials the role to be played in their health development programmes by Britain as an exporter of hospital designs and equipment.

MPLA claims capture of FNLA headquarters town

JOHANNESBURG, Jan. 5 (R). — The Soviet-backed Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) said Monday it had captured the headquarters of the rival FNLA in a major offensive in the northern front of the civil war.

An army communique broadcast by MPLA-controlled Luanda Radio and monitored here said its troops captured the FNLA headquarters town of Uige — formerly Carmona — after storming and occupying a number of FNLA positions at the weekend.

The MPLA blitz had been predicted by intelligence reports here and was thought to be aimed at gaining the maximum territorial advantage before African leaders meet in Addis Ababa next weekend to seek an end to the Angola fighting.

If confirmed, the loss of Uige would be a catastrophic blow to the FNLA (the National Front for the Liberation of Angola), already demoralised and put in disarray by constant barrages of Soviet-made missiles launched from vehicles under the control of Russian advisers.

Uige, capital of the Uige coffee-growing province, has come to be regarded as the spiritual home of the FNLA.

It would also leave them with little except villages and bushland as a fall-back position.

The MPLA communique said its forces destroyed two American aircraft on the airport runway at Uige and "recovered" hundreds of tons of war material including armoured cars and transport vehicles. It gave no further details.

An earlier communique said the MPLA, in its weekend offensive, captured the important airbase at Negage, some 165 miles north-east of Luanda, cutting off the airlift of arms and equipment to FNLA.

In an earlier development, the FNLA said that Cuban troops backed by ex-Katangese gendarmes and Angolan People's Liberation Movement (MPLA) troops have massacred women, children and old people in an all-out attempt to smash their way through the FNLA defences in northern Angola.

A communique from the FNLA's liaison bureau said more than 7,500 MPLA forces were involved in the heavy offensive which started several days ago. The MPLA was using tanks, missiles, mortars, planes and armoured columns.

On the eastern front, heavy fighting was raging around the town of Luso, recently captured by forces of the FNLA and its civil war ally, the UNITA movement. The second MPLA communique said Luso had been "invaded by a South African armoured column."

Although South Africa has never formally acknowledged that its forces are engaged in the civil war, the capture of South African troops deep inside Angola has reinforced reports.

(Continued on page six)



IN DAMASCUS. — Syrian President Hafez Assad (centre) and Prime Minister Zeid Rifai (on couch) are shown during their meeting in Damascus Sunday. With them is Abdul Mun'im Rifai, of Jordan.

Rifai, Assad discuss political coordination in Damascus meet

AMMAN, (JNA). — Prime Minister Mr. Zeid Rifai Sunday paid a quick visit to Damascus where he conferred with President Hafez Assad and other Syrian leaders.

The Jordan Times has learned that Premier Rifai's discussion dealt mainly with coordination of positions for the coming political stage, particularly with a view towards the unification of inter-Arab stands on the United Nations Security Council's debate of the Palestine issue set for Jan. 12.

It was also understood that results of the recent visit to Moscow by a Jordanian delegation led by member of the Upper House of Parliament Mr. Abdul Mun'im Rifai were also reviewed at the meeting.

Premier Rifai was accompanied on the trip by the Speaker of the Upper House Mr. Bahjat Talhoumi, Mr. Abdul Mun'im Rifai, the Jordanian permanent representative at the United Nations Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf, and Secretary General of the Foreign Ministry Mr. Hassan Ibrahim.

Those who attended the meeting on the Syrian side were the Prime Minister Mr. Mahmoud Ayoubi, the Speaker of the Peoples Assembly Mr. Mohammed Ali el Habbal, and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mr. Abdul Halim Khaddam. Premier Rifai returned to Amman Sunday afternoon.

On Monday, a joint Jordanian-Syrian meeting was held at the Syrian Foreign Ministry.

The meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by member of the Upper House of Parliament Mr. Abdul Mun'im Rifai and the Jordanian permanent representative at the United Nations Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf. On the Syrian side were Deputy Minister, Mr. Abdul Halim Khaddam, Assistant Foreign Minister, Dr. Abdul Ghani Raff'e and the Syrian permanent representative at the United Nations, Mr. Muwaffaq el Allaf.

Mr. Abdul Mun'im Rifai said later they discussed the general Arab position and a unified Arab stand during the U.N. Security Council's debate on Palestine on Jan. 12.

Allon sees Kissinger as Israel refuses to join U.N. meeting with PLO

TEL AVIV, Jan. 5 (Agencies). — Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon said Monday on leaving for the United States that his planned talks with U.S. officials on the forthcoming Security Council debate on the Middle East, to which the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is invited, "will not be easy".

The United States has been under fire from Israeli Ministers for refusing to veto the November 30 Security Council resolution calling for the debate and for agreeing to take part alongside the PLO delegation.

Mr. Allon said these differences were not due to a slackening of the traditional ties of friendship between the U.S. and Israel but to the situation created by the adoption of the resolution, "which did irreparable damage to the cause of peace."

Mr. Allon, who went to Washington at the invitation of Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, said the Security Council had created a deadlock by omitting to mention previous U.N. resolutions concerning the Middle

East. He said, "Israel has nothing against the Security Council but it believes this is the last forum in which to reach a settlement and one which will never replace the Geneva Conference table."

The Israeli cabinet Sunday reaffirmed its decision to boycott the January 12 Council debate while the PLO was invited.

Mr. Allon said any attempt to change the wording or the spirit of Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 regarding the Middle East would bring about a stalemate in the area.

Mr. Allon said Israel would "oppose all attempts by Syria, the PLO and the Soviet Union—for example the forthcoming Security Council meeting—to impose a settlement."

Mr. Allon said he would spend most of his time discussing with Dr. Kissinger an effort to coordinate attitudes and policies aimed at repairing the "damage" to Middle East peace efforts by Security Council resolution 381 adopted on November 30.

This resolution called for a full-scale debate on the Middle

East and the Palestinian question with the participation of the PLO.

"This resolution cannot serve as a basis for discussions. Israel does not feel bound by it, has rejected it and will not adhere to it," Mr. Allon said.

The Foreign Minister said Israel did not object to discussing the Palestinian issue, but that it should be done in the proper context and forum.

"On the contrary, Israel is determined that this time no solution of the Mideast problem will be acceptable unless it includes a just solution of the Palestinian question."

According to Israeli diplomatic correspondents, Mr. Allon asked the government for permission to raise with Mr. Kissinger the possibility of negotiations between Israel and Jordan in which Palestinians and West Bank representatives would also take part.

But Defence Minister Shimon Peres opposed such a move and the government finally agreed that Mr. Allon would only raise this issue after directly contacting Mr. Rabin from Washington, the reports said.

Fahmi: Geneva talks should resume within next 6 months

CAIRO, Jan. 5 (R). — Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmi said Monday Egypt believed that the Geneva Middle East peace conference should resume during the first half of this year.

The climate was now favourable for participation by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on an equal footing with the other parties to the conference — Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Israel — he told a

joint meeting of several committees in the People's Assembly (Parliament).

Cairo was contacting other parties on a possible resumption, Mr. Fahmi said, adding that his country would not accept a stalemate because of Israel's intransigence or hesitation in other Arab quarters.

He did not elaborate on the other Arab quarters.

Speaking only a week before the Security Council debate on the Middle East, Mr. Fahmi told the Arab Affairs, Foreign Relations and National Defence Committees, his country would hold intensive contacts and consultations with the various parties to the conference — particularly the United States and the Soviet Union.

"Egypt's strategy is based on maintaining the momentum until the land is liberated and its rights recovered," he said.

Cairo's policy was to declare 1976 "a year of the Palestinians in pursuance of the idea submitted to the United Nations General Assembly by President Anwar Sadat," Mr. Fahmi added.

On Egyptian-Soviet relations, the Foreign Minister said Egypt called for an objective dialogue. Mr. Fahmi said his country was anxious to develop those relations in accordance with the Moscow-Cairo friendship treaties to the conference — particularly the United States and the Soviet Union.

(Continued on page six)

U.S. House team arrives in Cairo

CAIRO, Jan. 5 (R). — A six-man delegation representing the International Affairs Committee of the United States House of Representatives arrived here Monday on a two-day visit to Egypt as part of a Middle East fact-finding mission.

The delegation, led by Lawrence H. Fountain of North Carolina, will meet Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmi and Speaker of the People's Assembly Sayed Mar-el.

It will also meet the Deputy Speaker, Mr. Gamal al-Oteifi, and other parliamentarians, an American embassy spokesman said.

They are due to leave here on Wednesday for Italy, and will also visit Israel, Iran and Turkey.

Beirut camp blockade risks end of normalcy

BEIRUT, Jan. 5 (AFP). — A gradual new-year return to calm after inter-community warfare was threatened here Monday by the blockade of a

large Palestinian Refugee Camp in the north east suburbs.

The Tell Zaatar Camp, with an estimated 50,000 refugees, one of the biggest in Lebanon, had been without supplies for four or five days, and another food convoy was stopped Monday in a nearby sector controlled by right-wing — mainly Christian — militia.

Barricades were immediately put up in Moslem-controlled western areas, to stop supplies to eastern sectors held by Phalangist and other right-wing groups.

Informed sources said contacts were under way to try to lift the Tell Zaatar blockade. About half the camp's refugees are believed to be Lebanese Shi' Moslems from South Lebanon.

Lebanese left-wing and Palestinian leaders had set up a committee to ask Prime Minister Rashid Karami and other leaders to help end the blockade.

The militia encircling the camp are members of the right wing Phalangist Party and their allies of the National Liberal Party (NLP) headed by Interior Minister Camille Chamoun.

Mr. Chamoun and Phalangist Chief Pierre Gemayel, both Maronite Christians, are considered hawkish in Lebanon's sporadic civil war, as are the Reverend Charbel Kassis, the Father Super-

rior of the Maronite Monks, and Shaker Abu Sleiman of the Maronite league.

In an apparent move to moderate the intransigent stand of these hawks, the Maronite Patriarch Antonios Boutros Khoreish met with President Suleiman Franjeh Monday.

Monsignor Khoreish conferred Sunday with the foremost

AUB opens doors after long delay

BEIRUT, Jan. 5 (R). — The American University of Beirut Monday resumed classes after a three-month break, providing a psychological boost to a city knocked cold by the trauma of civil war.

The 110-year-old American university, governed under a charter from the state of New York, has been disrupted by the heavy fighting in Beirut in recent months, which compounded its acute money problems.

But university authorities agreed to re-open Monday after the Lebanese Government pledged to help it out financially.

The government move was seen here as aimed at boosting the morale of wealthy Beirutis, many of whom have sent their children abroad for education or have themselves left, taking their money with them.



SECOND JOB. — Brig. Abdul Salem pictured in his office as he talked to a Jordan Times reporter Monday.

AMMAN, (J). — His Majesty King Hussein Monday delegated the Commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force, Brigadier Abdul Salem to take command of the air defence forces.

Brigadier Salem told the Jordan Times that the newly established air defence forces will be one of the most modern in the area and will relieve the air force from its main task of defending the Jordanian skies by hitting the enemy deep if necessary.

He added the force will bolster the Arab ability to defend the skies and will shoulder its duties with Arab brotherly countries.

Brigadier Salem reiterated His Majesty's assertion that any weapon possessed by Jordan is a Jordanian-Arab weapon and will be used accordingly.

The Royal Air Force-Air Defence Commander continued by saying, "that 1976 will witness the completion of the latest, and most accurate radar network in the region."

The commander praised the role by His Majesty the King in bringing this force into existence and commended the understanding of the Jordanian General Command on the feasibility of such a force.



FLIGHT DELAYED. — The hijacked Japan Airlines DC-8 jet rests idle on the tarmac at Manila International Airport Monday with hijackers and hostages inside. (See story page 6)



Lebanon: whose tragedy?

In the spirit of the new year, one instinctively wishes the next 12 months in Lebanon will be a bit less turbulent than the past 12. The news from Beirut is getting to be familiar, as the town is generally empty, sporadic shooting thunders between ill-defined eastern districts and more people pack up and leave the country. With parliamentary elections and the summer's presidential selection coming up this year, things do not seem rosy for the little republic by the sea.

It is easy, sometimes even chic, to be down on Lebanon. It is no secret that the historic Phoenician entrepreneurial spirit has not always left behind it a string of friends as long or deep as its list of customers or profits. Neither is it a secret that many Middle Easterners who decry the evils and discomforts of the Lebanese capital are the same people who fly there for weekends or summer vacations to lounge in the hedonic trap-pings so readily available there.

But when the country falls apart, and Lebanese are running around the city killing each other and kidnapping on the strength of a human being's personal compact with his or her God, there is something disturbing about an Arab World that watches the spectacle with only a half-hearted effort to prod conciliation and mediation efforts.

This is not a short-run drama. They have been fighting each other in Lebanon since April. This is the 10th month of madness, and the concerned Arab bears the news with a lingering suspicion that the Lebanese people do not have a monopoly on the madness. We are all infected with the sickness if our only collective response to the fury is to reroute travel plans to bypass Beirut and make alternative arrangements to buy our bottled mineral water from other sources.

It is discouraging enough to read the international news media and find that their most recurring theme is to guess which Middle East city will replace Beirut as the regional banking and business centre. But it is far more depressing to wander throughout the Arab nation and hear people tsk-tsk and sigh away the destruction of a country.

The fundamental tragedy of Lebanon — it is also part of its past success — is that it is a nation with no effective national authority, a nation of men and not of laws. It is no surprise that a government that has historically stood aloof and let an economic free-for-all build a bustling little carnival now stands helpless as the same forces of individualism, private enterprise and anarchy run amuck.

It is indicative of our moral frailty that we are not so much concerned with helping Lebanon as we are with replacing it. What happens when the international business community settles down in another Middle East city and people find other summer resorts in the area? Is there no deep concern in the Arab World that we are watching on television every evening the slow destruction of the leading international-class centre for medicine, research, education and business in the Arab World? What do we say next year when Beirut is destroyed and someone comes to ask us where to find the zenith of Arab science, education and management? Do we send them to Athens, too?

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Speaker of the Upper House Mr. Bahjat Al Talhouni (middle) in the press conference with Sheikh Abdullah Goshi Chief Justice (right) and Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh (left) with rest of members of the committee of drafting civil law.

Jordanian Civil Code compiled

AMMAN, (JNA). — A Jordanian Civil Code has finally been compiled after nearly 20 years of deliberations.

On the occasion Mr Bahjat Talhouni, Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament and head of the commission entrusted with the preparation of the Civil Code explained in a press conference which he held Monday noon at the National Assembly Headquarters the various steps leading to its preparation, its sources and aims.

"This code," he said, "is one of the most important laws to be adopted in Jordan for it will cover all transactions, and individual relations. This code replaces the Medjelleh (ancient Turkish code dating from 1860) which was the only codified legal source in Jordan."

"This code," Mr Talhouni said, "is based on the Medjelleh, Islamic doctrine and the individual Jordanian laws."

"This is the first civil code," he added in the history of the modern Arab world to have been inspired by Islamic law in all its branches.

The code is comprised of 1450 articles in 1500 pages with explanations and references

concerning its various articles.

"Reviewing the history of the Civil Code," Mr Talhouni said, "The government had submitted a project of a civil code to the Lower House of Parliament on February 14, 1954 who adopted it but this project was rejected by the Upper House of Parliament and was returned to the Lower House with the recommendation that if Civil Code is to be adopted it should be inspired by the Medjelleh and Islamic law. Arrangements between the 2 houses continued until 25 July 1975 a committee was nominated at the request of His Majesty King Hussein and the government and was entrusted with the preparation of the Jordanian Civil Code," he added this committee had completed its work last month.

The committee entrusted with the preparation of the Civil Code was composed of Sheikh Abdullah Ghosheh, Sheikh Abdul Hamid Assayeh, Mr Abdul Rahman Khalefeh, Mr Ali Hindaur, Mr Ahmad Tarweh, Mr Ya-cub Muamar, Dr Abdul Aziz Khayyat, Sheikh Abdul Baki Jomo, Mr Saluman Qudat, Mr Rizk Batayneh, Mr Said Duna, and Dr Ibrahim Zeid Kilani.

Shakespeare troupe kicks off love theatre

Last night was First Night for the Royal Shakespeare Company's production of "Pleasure and Repentance," as Amman is their first stop-over on a six-month tour that will take them through India, Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh, then on to Australia and New Zealand.

"We'll never get bored with it, even after six months," said Ann Firbank, who has toured for many months with this production. "Every audience is different, and every stage, and we do alternate with the other production 'The Hollow Crown'."

Enjoying the sunshine yesterday at the Jordan Theatre, the five members of the Company and their tour staff, Ian Drake and Candy Baker, were busy preparing the stage and having a final rehearsal for last night's production. They have all met before in London, through the Company and their busy lives of West End productions, television and films, but this is the first time they have worked together as a team. "First night nerves" could be expected, but were not evident in this team of highly polished and professional actors who all have an impressive list of credits on screen stage and TV, both in Britain and internationally.

The Company arrived in Amman on Sunday night. The first trip to Jordan for them all, they relaxed over kebabs and tabouleh and reminisced about some of the nightmares faced by actors on tour. "Cold theatres and inadequate changing rooms" — "The Opening Night in New York when our costumes and scenery were still at sea, the ship delayed by a storm" — "Playing Caliban in such heat that it took three hair-dryers to dry off the heavy fur costume between acts — I think I went on stage steaming."

But they are delighted with the Jordan Theatre — "Just the right size for our production." The stage was transformed in minutes, as trunks were unpacked and their props assembled to a background of Elizabethan music. "Is there a quill for the Keats letter?" was reassuringly replied to with, "Of course, if you want to use it, nobody else has."

From Keats to the Rolling Stones, Shakespeare, and Mickey Spillane, the programme of "Pleasure and Repentance" offers more than just "A light-hearted look at love" but a new theatre experience, a type of theatre cabaret. And for Amman audiences it is a chance not to be missed — a chance to share "First Night nerves" with a team of actors amongst Britain's best at the very beginning of a new tour.

Some tickets will be available at the door for their final performance Tuesday night at the Jordan Theatre, Jebel el Weidieh, at 8 p.m.



SPILLANES. — Members of the Royal Shakespeare Company doing a segment adapted from a love theme by author Mickey Spillane. (Jordan Times photos by Bill Lyons).

Prince Hassan to meet with farmers

AMMAN, (JNA). — His Highness Crown Prince Hassan will next Saturday preside at a meeting in North Shuneh for farmers of the Jordan Valley region, to explain aims and objectives of the farmers union.

His Highness had recently presided at a meeting of the Jordan Valley farmers in South Shuneh.

The Jordan Valley Commission is organizing these meetings for the purpose of explaining to the farmers the aims and responsibilities of the Union which are the improvement of their social, economic and cultural conditions to the highest possible standards.

Arab auditors to meet in Cairo

AMMAN, (JNA). — A meeting of Arab Audit Department will start in Cairo on the 13th of this month at the Arab League headquarters.

The conference, which will last for three days, will discuss the possibility of creating a regional group for auditing within the frame work of the Arab League.

Mr Ahmad Tarawneh head of the Jordanian Audit Department, said the aim of such meeting is to enable the Arab auditors to take a unified stand at the International Audit Conference which holds meetings every three years.

NATIONAL BRIEFS

AMMAN, (JNA). — Prime Minister Zaid Rifal yesterday in a communiqué asked all Government ministries and departments to begin implementation of projects and other works indicated in the five-year Development Plan 1976-1980 which the cabinet approved last Wednesday.

AMMAN, (JNA). — A British mission from the Federation of Machine and Equipment Industry for combating threats to industrial labour, will arrive in Amman January 8 to set up an exhibition of machines and equipment in cooperation with the Labour Department and the British Embassy.

The aim of the show, which will be held in the Professional Syndicates Complex, is to acquaint the industrialists in Jordan of the latest methods for precaution against all kinds of dangers involved in labour.

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Hotel training centre inaugurated

AMMAN, (JNA). — The Hotel Management Training Centre was inaugurated Monday by the Director General of Tourism, Mr. Ghaleb Abu Jaber.

In an inaugural speech, Mr. Abu Jaber said that the establishment of the Hotel Management Centre completes the planned development projects in the field of tourism.

"This step," Mr. Abu Jaber added, will be followed by the establishment in 1979 of an academic school for hotel management training.

"The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities plans to enlist specialised persons in the various fields of tourism," Mr. Abu Jaber said.

The director of the Training Centre, Mr. Nazih Debbas then said that he is confident that the four to six month long training course offered, in addition to practical training, will graduate qualified persons for hotel management, he also said that, the graduates would also be qualified to work in rest houses, as well as hotels belonging either to the Ministry of Tourism or to private organisations.

15 new industries

AMMAN, (JNA). — Fifteen new industries with J.D. 968,000 as capital were approved by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce on Sunday.

The 15 industrial concerns will employ a total of 405 workers.

It is expected that 300 of these will graduate every year. The inauguration ceremony was attended by the Director General of Antiquities, the International Labour Organisation and a number of officials from the Ministry of Tourism, Antiquities and interested individuals.

Lord Caradon meets minister, visits Baq'a camp

AMMAN, (JNA). — The Minister of Development and Reconstruction, Dr. Subhi Az Amr, Monday received in office Lord Caradon, former British representative at United Nations Security Council who is now visiting Jordan.

Later Lord Caradon, accompanied by Under-secretary of the Ministry of Development and Reconstruction, paid a visit to the Baq'a refugee camp where he met with a number of refugees and had a look at the services given to the residents of the camp.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Al-Ra'i commended the co-ordination and informative visit by the Prime Minister Zaid Rifal Sunday to Damascus.

The paper said that the visit is a continuation of the guidelines of co-ordination and then amalgamation.

The Prime Minister briefed the Syrian officials on the outcome of the visit by the Jordanian delegation to Moscow and the results as the Jordanian side saw it the paper said.

The trip covered all preparations for the upcoming Middle East debate at the U.N. in general and the Palestinian problem in particular since Damascus has the initiative in this direction who put the price of renewing the U.N.D.O.F. on the Golan Heights as a condition for the M.E. problem debate.

"The Jordanian delegation also discussed the subject of the Arab-European dialogue, and the Arab Parliamentary Federation and the aims of the dialogues in the service of the Arab cause," Al-Ra'i continued.

"In conclusion," the paper said that "the forthcoming U.N. security council meeting will no doubt make the guidelines, for the failure or success of the proposed Geneva conference."

"In another editorial, Al-Ra'i said, 'It is about time the Arab League take an effective and decisive role in the current conflict in Lebanon.'"

The paper also called upon the Arab countries to face the challenge and accept the call by the Arab League secretariat to bring the situation in Lebanon back to normal.

"Despite previous failures by the Arab Foreign Ministers, the Secretary General of the Arab League is calling again to try to find an equitable exit for the Lebanese conflict." The paper continued.

The new initiative by the Arab League might succeed and might not, but the question remains that "Arabisation" of the Lebanese conflict has to take the following facts into consideration:

1. Certain Lebanese circles reject any mediation from any source and this was revealed during the French Papical, and Syrian envoys missions.
2. Other circles reject any mediation which contradicts or is in conflict with the continued Syrian med-

iation. 3. "Arabisation" of the Lebanese conflict first of all needs unification. Arab efforts that are aiming to reach the Lebanese battlefield.

"The Arab diplomatic circle realise that the most dangerous thing about the Lebanese situation is the inability of the front, whether foreign or Lebanese, to control the deteriorating situation, and that is why makes the old National Declaration un-applicable after what happened in the last nine months," Al-Ra'i said.

Al-Ra'i concluded, saying that "the above mentioned feelings delay the reply by the Arab capitals on the Arab League memorandum."

AD Dustour started its editorial yesterday saying, "The Israeli decision to ignore the U.N. General Assembly resolutions and its decision to block the U.N. Security Council deliberations on the Middle East will damage Israel, especially its relations with the countries who are currently supporting it."

The paper said that "The U.N. Security Council is calling upon not just to pass resolutions but to press its resolutions with an active pressure and the Israeli aggression and occupation."

On Sunday AD Dustour blamed the Ministry of Health for water pollution and consequently poisoning of the waters of Salt.

The paper reminded the ministry that it has to issue clarifications on the situation which has been going on for the last two days.

"It is unusual for the city of Salt to face a flood of poisoning in two consecutive days," AD Dustour said.

"As said, the poisoning was a result of water pollution at this time the citizens have the right to be informed from official circles to what really took place, and the preventive measures that have been taken so that such incidents would not occur again." AD Dustour continued.

"It is true" the paper concluded, "that governmental departments were closed during the past two days, but that was not a hindrance for the doctor at Al-Husseini Hospital in Salt to exert their utmost on a 24-hour basis to save the lives of the citizens."

Czech Premier's visit marks Turkey's lean to the east

ANKARA, Jan. 5 (R). — Czechoslovak Premier Lubomir Strougal arrived here Monday for a three-day visit, underscoring Turkey's growing friendship towards Warsaw Pact countries.

Mr. Strougal, accompanied by Foreign Trade Minister Antres Barcak, will have talks with Premier Suleyman Demirel. They are expected to focus on expanding trade and economic relations between the ideologically opposed countries.

Since coming to power last April, Mr. Demirel has visited Romania and Bulgaria, climaxing his overtures to Turkey's former cold war opponents by meeting Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin here last month.

These moves, largely prompted by Turkey's desire for economic aid from diverse sources, have coincided with Ankara's disenchantment with the United States following the American economic embargo, now partially lifted.

Turkish officials said topics under discussion during Mr. Strougal's visit would include the establishment of a joint economic commission, a highways agreement, tourism and joint economic projects in Turkey.

Mr. Demirel has been at pains to head off criticism that his friendliness towards the Warsaw Pact is incompatible with the anti-communism of his four-party coalition.

In a recent newspaper interview, he said the source of economic aid was unimportant, provided that it furthered Turkey's national interest.

He hinted that he would seek

Czechoslovak help for two new thermal power stations, in addition to existing power stations, and factories built with aid from Prague, which has also given Turkey expert help to produce its own Pilsner beer.

The two countries have a trade protocol providing for an annual trade volume of \$120 million. Turkey exports mainly agricultural goods and minerals while the Czechoslovaks sell iron and steel, pipes, engines, motor vehicles and machinery.

Officials said Turkey was keen to exploit Czechoslovak technology in future trade.

Mr. Strougal plans to leave for home from Istanbul on Wednesday after a press conference here Tuesday.



BEIRUT BURIAL. — The flag-draped coffin carrying the body of Capt. Nabih Naim, pilot of the MEA jet that crashed over Saudi Arabia last Thursday, is carried by army officers at Beirut International Airport Monday. A woman relative of the deceased pilot accompanies the coffin. — (AP wirephoto).

Opposition members boycott opening of India's new Parliament

NEW DELHI, Jan. 5 (R). — Nearly 100 opposition members boycotted the formal opening of a new session of India's Parliament Monday in protest at the state of emergency in the country and the detention of 32 anti-government legislators.

The new session is expected to make important changes to the Indian Constitution.

The boycott was by members of six parties which oppose Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's ruling Congress Party.

They stayed away from a joint session of the two houses of parliament called to hear an inaugural speech by President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed.

But many were present later when the Lok Sabha (lower house) met to elect a new Speaker. They raised at once the issues of their jailed colleagues and restrictions on press reporting of parliament.

Mrs. Gandhi's government proclaimed the state of emergency in June.

President Ahmed made no reference in his speech to constitutional amendments which many Indians expect will be placed before the present session, to last until January 30.

But, he said, business would be heavy with a number of Presidential ordinances issued since the last session in August to be converted into acts of parliament.

Three of these relate to controls on the press, including one to abolish the "Watchdog" press council and another to remove legal immunity on press coverage of parliament.

A third will give the Government powers to prevent publication of reports on any particular subject for up to two months and provide strict penalties for printing any story the government considers objectionable.

The government has given no official indication of the kind of changes it plans in the constitution. But a document widely circulating here suggests that India's British-style Parli-

ment may give way to a system in which Parliament and the judiciary are subordinate to the executive.

During the lower house election of a Speaker, Mrs. Gandhi accused the opposition of abusing their rights as Members of Parliament.

But opposition speakers said the House could not dismiss the fact that a large number of members were under detention and had not been brought before the court. Ignoring the rule of law had no place in a Parliamentary democracy, they said.

The new Speaker, Mr. B. Ram Bhagat, a former Congress Party Minister and ex-Chairman of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, pleaded with the house to keep controversy out of the debate.

President Ahmed said in his address that the emergency, declared on June 26, and a 20-point economic plan announced a few days later, had had a dramatic effect on the health of the nation.

Diffidence and apathy had given way to confidence.

Overall price levels had fallen by 10 per cent compared with September 1974, and food prices by nearly 20 per cent, he said.

Mr. Ahmed added that the nation should be vigilant and disciplined "in view of the international situation, the continuing challenge of forces of disruption at home and the need to accelerate our social and economic programme."

He told the joint session of the houses that the people had given overwhelming support to the Declaration of Emergency and the decisive steps taken by the government over a wide front.

The government's 20-point economic programme, he said, had brought down the prices of food and other consumer goods, checked labour unrest

and corrected imbalances and distortions in the economy.

He told the session, the second since the proclamation of the emergency, that the government would remove "controls which are no longer relevant" in the industrial sphere and undertake comprehensive reform of its own financial machinery.

President Ahmed also announced that a bill on urban land-holding would be introduced during the current session, which should last until the end of this month. He welcomed the two representatives of Sikkim who had joined the parliament for the first time since Sikkim became India's 22nd state in May last.

He assured them of the Government's help in developing "this neglected hill state."

New Arabic daily appears in Kuwait

KUWAIT, Jan. 5 (R). — A new Arabic-language daily newspaper, Al-Anba'a, was published here for the first time Monday.

The newspaper, edited by Mr. Nasser Abdel-Aziz Al-Marzouk, was launched by company called Dar Al-Kuwait for Press and Publication, formed by a group of Kuwaiti businessmen and capitalised at one million dinars.

It joins four Arabic and two English-language daily newspapers which already serve this state of less than one million people.

Al-Anba'a said in its first issue that it would not act as an organ for any individual or "the belief in a unified Kuwait working for the general good of the Arab world."

Israelis police Lebanese territory

TEL AVIV, Jan. 5 (R). — Israeli forces have started "policing actions" along the Lebanese side of the border following a rise in guerilla shelling on targets in Israel, the daily Haaretz reported Monday.

The newspaper said the military high command decided to take "preventive actions" across the border after almost daily guerilla mortar and bozooka attacks on villages and army patrols along the border. These would include artillery shellings of guerilla targets, it said.

Israeli troop also infiltrated into Lebanese territory, combed the border area and even put up road blocks to check cars, the report added.

There has so far been no official comment on the report.

Cairo figure asks Sadat to consider real election

CAIRO, Jan. 5 (R). — An Egyptian columnist Monday urged President Anwar Sadat to seek a new term of office next October through direct elections instead of the present plebiscite system.

Mr. Sadat's six-year term expires in October. The constitution requires the National Assembly to select a single nominee for the Presidency, whose name is then put to a national

plebiscite for approval.

The columnist, Dr. Ibrahim Abdo, wrote in the mass circulation paper Al-Akhar that "A plebiscite is a legacy of the past and contradicts the President's much publicised free policy."

"We want to decide who will head this nation by our own free will and without tutelage or directives from the only political party allowed to operate in this country."

Hoveyda in Iraq on private visit

JAKARTA, Jan. 5 (AFP). — Pro-Indonesian forces in East Timor now control one-third of the former Portuguese colony, the Indonesian news agency ANTARA reported Monday.

The agency said the forces captured the town of Manatuto, 60 kilometres east of Dili, on Dec. 31 without any serious fighting.

Manatuto lies half way between Dili and Bacau on the west coast and its capture suggested that the pro-Indonesian forces were trying to gain control of the vital Bacau-Dili highway.

Dili was captured from the Fretilin forces on Dec. 7 and Bacau fell four days later after a combined attack by pro-Indonesian guerillas and marines.

This was the first time that the official news agency had admitted that the pro-Indonesian forces controlled no more than one-third of East Timor, apparently areas along the border with Indonesian Timor and areas around Dili and Bacau.

This is the Arab Socialist Union, and observers believe Dr. Abdo's comments will start a keen debate both within this body and in the press.

These observers said public suspicion of the plebiscite system grew under the late President Gamal Abdel Nasser — usually returned to office with 99.9 per cent of the vote.

Mr. Sadat, 57, succeeded President Nasser in 1970. He is apparently reluctant to seek a new term.

Dayan is new editor

TEL AVIV, Jan. 5 (AFP). — Former Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Dayan will be the editor-in-chief of a new Israeli weekly political newspaper, the newspaper Maariv reported.

Geo. Dayan himself had confirmed the report, adding that he described the publication scheduled to appear here soon as politically "independent."

Maariv said there were reports that two groups will back the project financially, one of them Israeli and one American.

Syria begins work to exploit deep oil

BEIRUT, Jan. (AFP). — Syria has begun a concerted effort to prospect and exploit large quantities of oil below 75,000 square kilometers (30,000 square miles) of territory, Deputy Premier and Economy Minister Mohammed Haidar said in an interview published here Sunday.

Prospection and exploitation in one third of this area would be handled by a National Company set up with the technical cooperation of socialist countries, particularly the Soviet Union, he said.

The company would work with Syrian, Arab and foreign experts, Mr. Haidar added in the Lebanese weekly Al-Diyar.

The other 50,000 square kilometers (20,000 square miles), rich in oil, had been divided into 12 areas open to foreign companies in exchange for quantities of oil at market prices to cover prospecting costs.

In these sectors, contracts had already been concluded with the Rumania for the north eastern Jazirah Region, Hungary for a desert region, and the

Hoveyda in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Jan. 4 (R). — Iranian Prime Minister Amir Ah-bas Hoveyda arrived in Baghdad Sunday for a four-day unofficial visit, the Iraq News Agency reported.

He is here as a guest of Iraqi Vice-President Saddam Hussein Takriti. He is accompanied by his mother on a pilgrimage to Moslem Shiite shrines in Karbela and Najaf. Some four million Iranian members of the Moslem Shiite sect are believed to be keen to visit Shiite shrines in Iraq.

Under new arrangements some 18,000 Iranians will be permitted to visit Iraq for pilgrimage annually until adequate hotel facilities are arranged there Iranian officials said.

Third World states huddle for econ. talks stance

PARIS, Jan. 5, (R). — Developing countries and oil producers plot strategy here Monday for discussions with the industrial nations on the world's economic woes.

It is the first time since the OPEC hostage drama in Vienna and Algeria that representatives of the oil-producing nations have assembled together and security by French police is likely to be tight.

The meeting, attended by officials from 19 countries, stems from the mid-December international conference here on energy and raw materials.

At the December conference, 27 nations agreed to set up commissions to discuss energy, raw materials, development and related financial problems.

Monday's meeting of eight oil-producing countries and 11 developing states is to thrash out their joint strategy for the commissions, which are due to start work on February 11.

But before the haggling with the industrial nations begins, the Third World countries have to work out their own common position.

Algeria, a leading Third World spokesman, is keen to have one item on the agenda for discussion—indexing oil and raw material prices to inflation in industrialised countries.

Little information is expected to filter from Monday's talks.

The next step—if they hammer out a common position—will be to put their propositions to another more limited meeting on January 26.

Miki seeks 1976 pact with USSR

ISE, Japan, Jan. 5 (AFP). — Prime Minister Takeo Miki strongly hopes to conclude a Japan-China peace and friendship treaty this year.

Mr. Miki made the remark at a press conference held here after his visit to the Ise Grand shrine in Mie Prefecture, southwestern Japan.

The Prime Minister hinted that he would ask the Soviet Union to return to Japan the Russia-held northern islands of Kunashiri, Etorofu, Habomai and Shikotan when Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko visits Japan Jan. 9-13 for Japan-Soviet peace treaty negotiations.

Mr. Miki also hinted that the House of Representatives will be dissolved in April. The present four-year term of lower house members will expire in December.

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MIDDLE EAST BRIEFS

● BAGHDAD. — Iraqi President Ahmed Hassan Bakr has issued a decree conferring on Mr. Saddam Hussein, Deputy Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council, the rank of General. President Bakr also wished the Iraqi army success "as a formidable stronghold deterring every vicious aggressor." President Bakr's message, quoted by the Iraqi News Agency, was issued on the eve of the 55th anniversary of the founding of the army.

● BAGHDAD. — An Iraqi information delegation left Baghdad Monday for a one-week visit to Iran, the Iraqi News Agency reported. It said the delegation would acquaint itself with the work of the Iranian information services.

● ALGIERS. — Torrential rains throughout the weekend ended an eight-year drought in the Algerian desert town of Adrar. Several homes were washed away in the town and surrounding villages, deep in the Sahara so-

me 1,520 Km southwest of Algiers, the Algerian news agency APS, reported. Adrar, the last major Algerian town before the border with Mali, lies on an ancient caravan route for the gold and slave trades from sub-Saharan Africa to the North African coast and the Middle East.

● ABU DHABI. — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has agreed to exchange diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level with Mauritius and Colombia, officials said here Sunday.

● KARACHI. — Iran and Pakistan will be linked by an all-weather road by 1978 and by rail two years later, Iran's Ambassador to Pakistan said Sunday.

● ADEN. — The South Yemeni navy rescued all 26 crew of a ship identified as Al-Saeedi which sank in the Red Sea Sunday during a storm, an official statement said Monday. All the crew were nationals of Somalia and Sharjah.

Crucial Concorde hearings for U.S. landing rights

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5 (R). — Crucial hearings take place here Monday on whether to put the controversial Anglo-French Concorde supersonic airliner into service on the lucrative transatlantic route.

Mr. Coleman has allotted three hours for each side to present their evidence. The opponents are expected to take the first stand.

A similar number representing the plane's Anglo-French manufacturers will parade a mass of statistics intended to refute all charges laid against Concorde in this country.

Surprisingly absent will be anyone representing U.S. airlines, which have been forecast to operate to and from U.S. airports.

Britain and France want to operate four flights a day through New York's Kennedy Airport and two flights a day at Dulles airport outside Washington.

The economic survival of the Concorde is heavily dependent on its winning permission to operate across the North Atlantic, tapping the large potential market for high speed travel to and from Europe.

Opposition to the Concorde has stemmed mainly from environmental groups, who claim the plane will damage the ozone layer around the earth.

Among those who will be testifying against the plane will be New York State Governor Hugh Carey and Bishop Hugh Montefiore, Anglican Bishop of Kingston-on-Thames, one of the leaders of a group of British opponents to Concorde who have come from London for the hearings.

An unexpected supporter for the aircraft emerged over the weekend, however, when Virginia State Transportation Officials said they favoured Concorde being allowed to fly in and out of Dulles airport on a six-month trial basis.

The officials believe that a Concorde service would generate business for the vast and under-used airport in a thinly-populated area of Northern Virginia.

The Anglo-French team at the hearings will submit that evidence levelled against the plane that it is noisier and dirtier than other aircraft is inaccurate.



BOOKED ON CONCORDE. — Viscount Leathers, the first person in Britain to reserve a seat on Concorde 12 years ago, collects his ticket in London recently for the first scheduled Concorde passenger flight, a Jan. 21 trip from London to Bahrain. The 5,650-kilometre trip will take four hours — two hours less than subsonic planes. Viscount Leathers paid £876 for the ticket.

Bonn sees steady growth for economy in 1976

BONN, Jan. 4 (R). — Hit hard by the drop in world trade during 1975, West Germany's highly export-oriented economy is slowly picking up again and will return to growth this year, government and private economists agree.

But there is disagreement over how fast this expansion will be, with the government hoping for an increase of some 4.5 per cent in the gross national product (GNP) after a 3.5 per cent slide in 1975. West Germany's worst recession and unemployment since the post-war economic recovery. However, most predict a more modest three per cent rise in GNP, the sum total of goods and services produced, is the likeliest figure, after allowing for inflation.

The higher estimate was first made in November by the Council of Economic Advisers, a government-appointed body which is doubted here as the "Five Wise Men," but it admitted that forecasting was risky now and that slower or faster growth was possible, depending on how other major economies progressed.

Since about a quarter of the West German economy is dependent on exports, their performance in 1976 will largely determine the strength and duration of the upturn.

The "five wise men" said exports should grow at least seven per cent, but private economists consider that a real increase of five or six per cent, excluding inflation, is a more realistic prediction.

In the first ten months of 1975, exports slumped by 13 per cent and Germany's much-envied foreign trade surplus is expected to drop to around 36 billion marks (6.79 billion sterling) in 1975 from the 50.8 billion (9.58 billion sterling) achieved in 1974, an all-time record.

During 1976, the surplus is expected to show little change, as imports—up by a real two per cent last year in contrast to the trend in other countries—will move ahead more strongly while the economic recovery gets under way.

In past years, government sources would have said the recent rises in German industrial production and in orders from home and foreign customers would have left no doubts that a firm revival was on the way.

But at present, there are major international and domestic uncertainties. West German officials hope, for example, that the world economic upturn is not endangered by political tensions, sharp oil price rises, confrontations between rich and poor nations, or further protectionist trade measures.

At home, the sources said the government wants people to save less heavily and spend more readily. It hopes that companies will be encouraged by moderate wage settlements in coming months and by improving profits to start investing again.

One area where worries are low is inflation, now running at an annual rate of below six per cent.

But the unemployment picture will stay gloomy for some time, with the numbers out of work again averaging over one million in 1976, though the total should ease below seven figures near the year-end, according to official forecasts.

China completes excavation feat
HONG KONG, Jan. 4 (AFP). — China has completed its biggest-ever derelict project by excavating a deep navigation channel in the estuary of the Yangtze, New China News Agency reported Sunday.

The excavation, which started in Sept. 1974, will enable 20,000-ton sea-going ships to sail into the port of Shukghai, the largest industrial centre in China, by riding an ordinary tide, it said.

Prior to the excavation, only 10,000-ton class vessels could sail through the channel on ordinary tide. Ships up to 20,000 tonnes could pass through it only on high tides which occur two or three days a month, the agency said.

ECONOMIC BRIEFS
● TOKYO. — Japan's external reserves fell in December to the lowest level in 20 months at \$12.8 billion, the Finance Ministry announced Monday. External reserves have declined steadily from a peak of \$14.635 billion last July, mainly because of stagnating exports and a decline in foreign investments in Japanese securities.

● MOSCOW. — The first oil well in the Kharkov area of the Soviet Ukraine went into operation Sunday with a daily capacity of 300 tonnes of crude oil, Tass News Agency reported. The well was the first of a large group of wells due to be bored in the eastern Ukraine during the next five years.

● SAIGON. — Eduardo Echeverria, brother of the President of Mexico, has been visiting South Vietnam since Saturday with a Mexican economic delegation. Mr. Echeverria is head of the Mexican Institute of Science and Technology.

Ford defends grain sales to Soviets IMF-World Bank meeting in Jamaica has heavy agenda

SAINT LOUIS, Missouri, Jan. 5 (AFP). — President Ford Monday declared his belief in the merits of American grain sales to the Soviet Union.

He rejected criticism of the sales from some congressmen who linked the question with Soviet support for the Angolan People's Liberation Movement (MPLA).

Referring to the recent long-term grain deal with the USSR, he told an audience of farmers that the agreement guaranteed the purchase of at least six million tons of U.S. wheat and maize per annum by the Soviet authorities during a five-year period.

The agreement was in the interests of American farmers and consumers because it would smooth out fluctuations in markets and prices.

Mr. Ford also said that the USSR had survived 60 years without American grain and any suspension of deliveries would have no immediate effect since the Soviet Union could get by without it.

American farmers would suffer if grain sales were linked to diplomatic affairs. This would also create tension between the U.S. and USSR, while having no practical effect on the Angolan situation.

Mr. Ford further noted that the world population will have almost doubled by the year 2,000 and the world would have an increasing need of U.S. output.

Benn in Iran for energy discussions

LONDON, Jan. 5 (R). — British Energy Secretary Tony Benn left here Monday for Tehran for talks with Iranian oil ministers and officials.

During his four-day trip, Mr. Benn's first to a member nation of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Mr. Benn will discuss energy and oil problems due to be examined next month in Paris by a commission of the world energy and raw materials conference.

He is expected to visit certain Iranian energy installations and may discuss nuclear energy and the question of state-owned oil companies, a subject known to be of particular interest to the British minister.

Mr. Benn's visit is one of a number to Iran by British ministers during the past two years and underlines the increasingly close relations between the two countries.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4 (R). — Finance ministers from 20 nations begin a meeting in Jamaica this week aimed at reforming the international monetary system and dealing with the financial problems of the less developed countries.

If they are successful, the ministers will take the first steps towards removing gold from the centre of the international financial system and substantially increase the aid money available to the world's poorest countries.

The ministers, who represent all 128 members of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, will meet for four days beginning on Wednesday.

The first two days of meeting will involve the IMF's special committee established to oversee the reform of the international monetary system.

For the next two days, the ministers will meet as members of the joint World Bank/IMF development committee, created a year ago to oversee the flow of development aid to the world's poor countries.

The financial officials will have on their agenda proposals for a trust fund for the least developed countries. They will also discuss possible increases in money the IMF can lend through its normal credit channels, new arrangements for controlling currency exchange rates, redistribution of voting rights in the IMF and elimination of the official gold price.

ECONOSCOPE

By ABU AHMAD

The following is the first in what will henceforth be a weekly column on regional and international economic affairs. Abu Ahmad is a noted Jordanian economist with a Ph.D. in economics from a major western university. He has been intimately involved in local and national economic planning and development in Jordan for the past eight years. Econoscope will appear in this space every Tuesday.

Jordan is a small country, with relatively scarce resources and only one outlet to the sea, Aqaba. Given these facts, a foreign investor may find Jordan a less than attractive place for investment, because expected returns may fall short of the costs incurred. Yet I suggest that Jordan is potentially highly profitable for a foreign investor.

Jordan's economic performance stands tall if compared with both advanced and less developed countries. In 1955, a World Bank mission estimated annual growth in Jordan's GNP at five per cent at most. The actual record proved the mission to be in gross error. The average annual growth in GNP exceeded ten per cent. Both the World Bank and the U.N. acknowledged this performance as among the highest in the world.

Despite the catastrophic outcome of the 1967 War and the subsequent occupation of the West Bank, Jordan absorbed the shock and was able to recover in a short time. The post-1967 era witnessed civil disturbances in 1970, upheavals in world monetary order, and a concomitant hike in world prices. These factors added to the challenges yet Jordan managed to respond and maintain its posture.

Such strength within Jordan may puzzle the outsider. How could a seemingly vulnerable economy withstand all these shocks? The answer lies in two main attributes.

First, Jordan is a unique and coherent family composed of homogeneous and well-educated members. Secondly, law and order have been strictly maintained to the benefit of the country. A foreign investor will find in Jordan's political climate and trained labor force that which may tempt him to invest in the country.

The over-all social and political conditions are necessary, but not sufficient, temptations for foreign investment. Jordanian officials are well aware of these facts.

Pertinent laws serve as another advantage. Foreigners are invited to any and all ventures in Jordan, as long as they obtain permission to do so. Such permission is not difficult to come by. Tax laws that fore-

Therefore, Jordan offers a unique investment opportunity for foreigners and its limited resources do not nullify the existence of high potential profitability.

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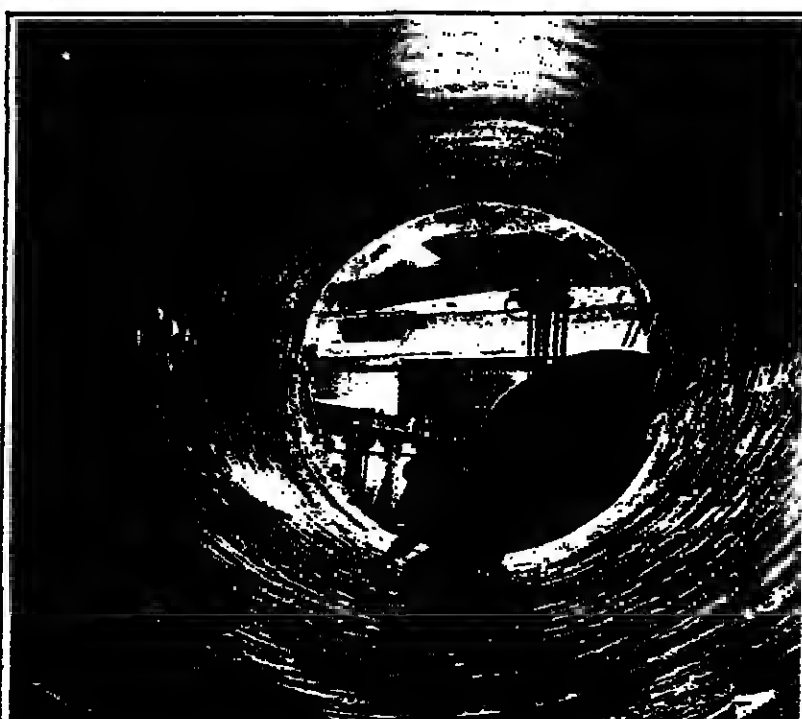
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Young Germans franker than ever

There has been a remarkable change in the thinking of the young "intelligentsia" about the various political parties. Of those, 61 per cent told interviewers they were satisfied with the present-day party system, whereas their attitude was shared by only 35 per cent in 1968. Some 38 per cent of the youngsters said they would one day perhaps align themselves with

case from increases in the price of public transport fares, worker co-determination in industry and in school rather than the somewhat more vague problems of political life. There has been a noticeable increase in young peoples' inclination towards maintaining more contact with friends and people of like mind.

The number of youngsters

Some 70 per cent of those questioned still live with their parents. Most of them want to live "differently" in the future—they want a more liberal, open style of living and greater financial independence.

Equally revealing are the replies to questions about child education. Twenty years ago, 32 per cent of those questioned said they would educate their children as they themselves had been brought up. Now, only 14 per cent say the same. Education towards greater independence is the key feature of the changed attitude.

Finally, 57 per cent of young skilled workers and as many as 38 per cent of unskilled workers say that, generally speaking, their way of living is much improved on that of their fathers or grandfathers. Only three per cent complain that family life has suffered a "social decline."

Take your choice: cold turkey or acupuncture

TAIPEI, Jan. 5 (AFP). — Acupuncture is very useful in curing dope addicts, the Taipei dope clinic reported Monday quoting 25 successful cases.

Acupuncture can relieve the withdrawal symptoms, a spokesman said. But needle therapy is still in experimental stage. Not all addicts can be cured by acupuncture. Those with heart conditions or pregnant women are not suitable to receive such treatment.

The Taipei dope clinic was created in July last year. It adopts a variety of methods to cure the addicts including the "cold turkey" method. Acupuncture is only one of them.

50 years of Islam in Cedar Rapids

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa. — The Muslim Community of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, one of the oldest in the United States, is currently celebrating fifty years of growth.

In 1925 a group of Muslim immigrants from the Near East formed a fraternal organization in Cedar Rapids and started plans to build a mosque. In 1934 they had completed and dedicated their first mosque—a simple wooden structure, but adequate to their needs for worship and Islamic education. In 1971 ground was broken for the new Cedar Rapids Islamic Center and Mosque—a building which covers 6000-square-feet and contains, in addition to the mosque proper, classrooms, a conference room, and other facilities.

One of the area Muslims, William Asosey, 34, Chairman of the Cedar Rapids Islamic Center Board, and President of the Mid-America Arabian Corporation, an export firm, recalled that when the community was making plans to build its new mosque, leaders went to several Arab embassies seeking financial assistance. None was granted, in consequence, he said, "We went to a bank in Cedar Rapids for a loan and began to build."

But, after the mosque was completed, the late King Faisal sent a gift of \$45,000 on behalf of the Saudi Arabian Government, and \$6,600 was donated by Kuwait.

In explaining why the financial aid was made available to them, Mr. Asosey said: "We were the first group, who after being turned down for a grant at first, went ahead anyway on our own."

Mr. Asosey said that there was no discrimination against Muslims "except in the media." The conflict in Lebanon, labeled in the news as a Christian-Muslim fight, has in no way affected the relationship of the Christian Arab and Muslim Arab communities in Cedar Rapids. The conflict in Lebanon is

mainly an economic one, "which unfortunately has settled along religious lines."

Mr. Tahir, the Editor of "Islamic Items," a weekly Islamic publication which was recently moved from Washington, D.C. to Cedar Rapids, said: "The Lebanon problem may have brought Muslim and Christian Arabs closer together in this country because it is such a painful thing."

The Muslim Community's pride in its traditions and history is reflected in its recently published pamphlet, "Fifty Years of Islam in Iowa 1925-1975," which says in part:

"The Muslim Community is continuing to grow and to plan for the future. Most of the original families were of Arab background. We are proud as Muslims that we now have families whose origins embrace Albania, Afghanistan, Burma, Indonesia, Iran, Pakistan, Russia, Sengal, Turkey, Yugoslavia,

and recently true American converts. Although there may be only one or two families from each of these countries, it shows the importance of a strong Muslim Community in order to provide a new focus for them to settle in and relate to. In addition to these family participants in the Cedar Rapids Islamic Center, it serves the religious needs of the faithful students from the State University of Iowa in Iowa City, the Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, Iowa, Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa, and Coe and Kirkwood College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. All of these institutions are within one and a half hours driving time or less. The past few years there have been Muslims from over thirty countries in Europe, Africa, the Middle East and the Far East who attend services and pray at the Islamic Center."



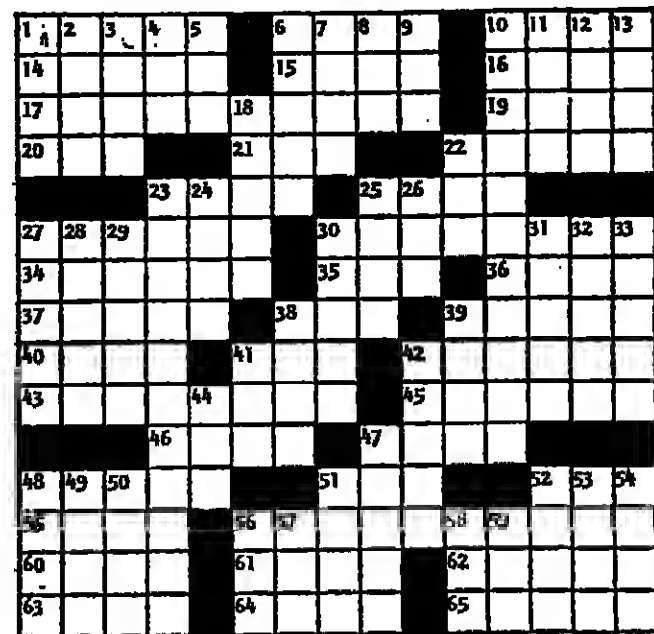
NEW GENERATION. — A group of young West German men and women travel together on a holiday train.

one party. Ten years ago, this was the position of only 28 per cent.

Only a minority occupy their thoughts with actual political problems. While 40 per cent still favour participation in demonstrations (three years ago, their number totalled 62 per cent of working youngsters and 75 per cent of the young intellectuals), but they said the inspiration would come in this

who, for example, are members of clubs and youth organisations has increased from less than 40 per cent in 1953 to almost 60 per cent today. But sports associations are among the favourites, while political organisations are considerably less popular. As before, parents are still the main confidantes of young people, although a shift towards marriage partners, girl friends and boy friends is visible.

Crossword Puzzle

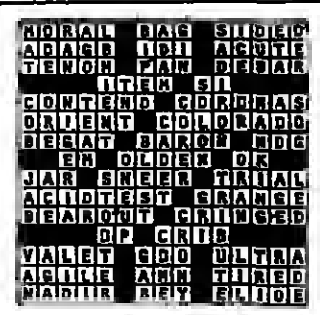


ACROSS

- 1 Subject
- 6 Masticate
- 10 Cattle feed
- 14 Actress Maureen
- 15 Disturb
- 16 Concerning: 2 wds.
- 17 Slender leaf: 2 wds.
- 19 Links
- 20 Alcoholic
- 21 Chevron
- 22 Frighten
- 23 English river
- 25 Jacob's wife
- 27 Planet
- 30 Something of great value: 2 wds.
- 34 Biblical peak
- 35 Seoul soldier
- 36 In a series
- 37 Daggers
- 38 Faucet
- 39 Flat fish
- 40 Italian city
- 41 Turkish headwear item
- 42 Seesaw
- 43 Mosaic pieces
- 45 Outlet
- 46 Line, and sinker
- 47 Far East land
- 48 Guiltless guys
- 51 Machine part
- 52 Illinois Indian
- 55 — mater
- 56 Peevish person
- 60 Cut
- 61 Famous diamond
- 62 Form of feudal service
- 63 Hell — no fury...
- 64 Roman road
- 65 Recorded

DOWN

- 1 The best
- 2 Where Lima is
- 3 Trouser
- 4 Wrath
- 5 Container
- 6 Canadian redmen
- 7 Mask
- 8 Cloth measure
- 9 Teeny
- 10 Arrangers
- 11 Minor
- 12 Old or young follower
- 13 Stockings
- 18 Happening
- 22 Doleful
- 23 Cleansing operation: 2 wds.
- 24 Periods
- 25 Chicago section
- 26 Lodge men
- 27 Eminent Egyptian
- 28 Have origin
- 29 Pastry items
- 30 Feed on grass
- 31 Angry
- 32 Communiqué
- 33 Pitchers
- 38 Tropical tree
- 39 Utah fly
- 41 Back
- 42 Athletic co-operatives
- 44 Dawn goddess
- 47 Light device
- 48 Hit hard
- 49 Earthen jar
- 50 Overlook
- 51 Priest's cape
- 52 Tread
- 53 Palestine port
- 54 Everett
- 56 Greek letter
- 57 Nonsense
- 58 Limerick led
- 59 Hummingbird



Where to lunch and dine Today

CHINESE Restaurant
Jebel Amman, near Ahl-
School or CMS, tel.
38868. Open daily from
11 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. and 7
p.m. to midnight.

Where to Shop ?!

KARNIG Jebel Am-
man, second circle. Gifts,
House - decorating goods
and colour film service -
developing and printing.

Tonight's TV Features

STAR SOCCER

Full 90 minutes matches
in colour will be transmitted
every Tuesday at 10:15 on
both channels between var-
ious leading German soccer
teams.

BARBARY COAST

A new semi-western se-
ries portraying San Francis-
co's boisterous atmosphere
of the 1890's and adventures
of a secret government
agent.

This series will be trans-
mitted every Tuesday at
6:30 on both channels.



DR. IN THE HOUSE

It's All in the Blue Book
This series continues in
the present cycle every
Tuesday at 8:30 on chan-
nel 6.

Medical students return
from holidays for their se-
cond year in medicine hop-
ing that they have at last
got rid of their old profes-
sor to find him still teach-
ing them.

WAR AND PEACE

Escape

War and Peace continues
every Tuesday at 9:10 on
channel 6.

After the battle of Boro-
dino and the heavy casu-
alties suffered by the Rus-
sians, the Moscovites pre-
pare for escape. Natasha op-
ens her house for the wounded
among whom is Andrei.

Horoscope Prepared especially for "JORDAN TIMES"

ARIES (Mar. 21 - Apr. 20).
This will be a quiet day, it is
also possible for a rewarding
platonic relationship to be
begun. Unusually happy con-
ditions are likely to develop
in romance.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 20).
Conditions in a party, society
or a club will not be pleasing
today. Hopes are not fulfill-
ed now.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20).
Watch and be alert against
anything that could put you
in a bad position or spot. You
can be easily accused and
hurt if you do not look out.

CANCER (June 21 - July 21).
Business deals, money or
property, will end in a loss.
Postpone everything for some
other day. Next Wednesday
is good if before 11.00 a.m.

LEO (July 22 - August 21).
An act of an emotional and
disturbing nature could oc-
cur. Place I would write
my dreams. Many advices and
warnings could come
through dreams.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21).
It is not advisable to put
money into new projects.
You should also postpone
starting new ventures or
making any important changes.
Social engagements are
not very promising.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 - Sept. 22).
Harmony can not be taught

today, but you need it. Some-
times because of children,
but better atmosphere after
10 p.m.

LIERA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22).
Risky day, relations with busi-
ness partners touchy. After
10 p.m. beautiful husband,
AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb.
18).

A change relating to home
or relations with parents
but it is doubtful if result is
beneficial. Afternoon hours
will add to difficulties and
delays and limitations will be
realized.

CAPRICORN (Oct. 21 - Jan.
19).
Tough nerves, quickly ex-
cited owing to delays. Watch
your health & accidents.
Argument with employees
should be avoided.

Prayer Times

Sunrise 5.9
Fajr 6.43
Dhuhr 11.45
Asr 2.25
Maghreb 4.47
Isha 6.7

Television

CHANNEL 3 & 6:
6.00 Quran
6.15 Cartoons
8.30 Barbary Coast
8.00 News in Arabic

CHANNEL 3:
7.30 Variety programme
8.30 Documentary

CHANNEL 8:
7.30 News in Hebrew
7.45 Varieties
8.30 Dr in the House
9.10 Science report
9.10 War and Peace
10.00 News in English
10.15 Soccer match (on both
channels in colour)

Radio

[ON 856 KHZ]

07.00 Breakfast Show
07.30 News
07.40 Morning Melodies
12.00 Pop Session (Part I)
13.00 News Summary
13.05 Pop Session (Part II)
13.30 The Young Sound
14.00 News Bulletin
14.10 Radio Magazine
14.30 Old Favourites
15.00 Classical Music
15.45 Light Instrumental
16.00 Easy Listening
17.00 Studio One
18.00 News Summary
18.30 Story Time
19.00 News bulletin
19.10 News reports

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15.45 Light Instrumental
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17.00 Studio One
18.00 News Summary
18.30 Story Time
19.00 News bulletin
19.10 News reports

Exchange

U.S. Dollar 329 - 331
Sterling 688 - 674
D. Mark 128 - 128.4
Fr. Franc 73.9 - 74.2
Swiss Franc 126.1 - 126.5
Saudi Rial 82.2 - 82.7
Lebanese Pound 136 - 136.9
Iraqi Dinar 906 & 911
Syrian Pound 86.4 - 86.9
Kuwaiti Dinar 1111 - 1112
Egyptian Pound 455 - 470
Libyan Dinar 658 - 690

Market Prices

Tomatoes: 90-130
Eggplant (large): 45-65
Marrow (large): 60-80
Marrow (small): 120-150
Hot Pepper: 70-80
Red Pepper: 100-130
String Beans: 45-60
Spinach: 130-160
Potatoes: 35-50
Cauliflower: 35-50
Cauliflower (pieces): 90-100
Turnips: 80-100
Cauliflower: 45-60
Apples (golden): 140-170
Apples (starkens): 150-180

Apples (doubt red): 180-210
Lemon: 60-90
Oranges: 40-60
Oranges (navel): 70-100
French Oranges: 60-80
Grapefruit: 30-40
Chestnut: 280-310
Bananas: 140-170
Carrots (yellow): 70-90
Carrots (black): 70-80
Mandarines: 80-110
Beets: 70-90
Onions: 100-140
Sweet potatoes: 60-75
Garlic: 100-130
Garlic: 100-130
Cabbage: 30-40

Amm. Airport

DEPARTURES:
7.00 Beirut
8.45 Beirut (M.E.A.)
9.30 Rome
10.00 Cairo
10.15 Amsterdam
10.15 Kuwait (K.A.C.)
10.30 Athens, Madrid east-
blanca.
11.00 Geneva, Brussels, An-
sterdam.
19.00 Bahrain, Bangkok.
21.00 Jeddah
22.55 Doha, Muscat.

Tonight's Emergencies

DOCTORS:
Habib Iskandar (38680)
Youssef Issa (36722)

PHARMACIES:
Hayat (24636)
University (44554)
Shadi (25665)
Aedin (72861)

TAXIS:
Jabal Amman Phenicia
(44564)
Jabal Russein
Khaled (23715)
Wadi Seir
Express (22168)

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ANTHONY QUINN,
YAPHET KOTTO

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Arabic Film

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In Colour
MAHMOUD YASSIN,
MERVAT AMIN,
MADHA KAMEL.

1.30 - 4.00 - 5.30 - 8.00

N. Sea storm threatens weary Europe

PARIS, Jan. 5, (AFP). — A new storm center loomed over the north sea Monday as Europe began mopping up damage from the weekend hurricane-force winds.

Seven seamen were killed in the new storm Monday morning off the coast of Norway when their ship went down near the island of Senja.

Another 167 people, passengers on a ship set drifting by the storm off Bergen, were brought back to land safe and sound in lifeboats.

Over the weekend nearly 50 people were killed, as winds and flooding caused millions of dollars in damage across Europe.

Meteorologists expected the new storm to be less serious than its predecessor, with winds reaching between 60 and 70 KPH (38 TB 44 MPH) compared to 130 to 170 KPH (80 to 105 MPH) over the weekend.

In Sweden, a fierce snow storm swept the south and western coastal areas, forcing cancellation of flights and ferry connections with Denmark. Swedish coastguards and tugs were called to the aid of a number of freighters caught at sea by strong winds.

In the Netherlands, Denmark and West Germany, dikes were patrolled and breaches caused

by the previous stormy repaired to meet the new winds and high water.

Northern and coastal France also faced renewed storms and winds.

Strike paralyses Eilat port

EILATH, Jan. 5 (AFP). — The port of Eilat was paralysed Monday by a general strike of workers protesting against Sunday's government decision to close Ikbhe Timna copper mines, throwing 700 people out of work.

Among the installations affected by the strike was the oil pipeline which carries crude oil to Achklon.

The Trade Minister said that the decision to close the copper mines had been delayed for some time in the hope that world copper prices could rise though it was known that the delay in closing would cost the mines an additional loss of 70 million Israeli pounds.

He added that in view of the country's present economic situation it was impossible to continue shouldering such losses.

Refugee camp blockaded

(Continued from page one)

Maronite dove, Raymond Edde, head of the National Bloc (NB) Political Party.

They agreed to try to persuade the hawks to relaunch negotiations with Moslem Leftists, it was reported by usually well-informed sources.

There were fears of resumed hostilities if the situation did not improve quickly. Beirut radio reported some exchanges of fire Monday between Tell Zaatar and Sin El Fil, where the convoy was stopped.

Camp leaders at Tell Zaatar were also reported to have threatened to shell Ashrafieh, a Christian stronghold on a hill overlooking the camp.

New kidnappings by rival factions were meanwhile reported for the second consecutive day, though the radio said some hostages taken Sunday had been released. The city's streets were still considered unsafe.

Interior Minister Camille Chamoun, a Maronite Christian, again appealed — for the 20th time, he said, since the civil warfare started last April — for army intervention to stop kidnappings and looting which would escalate tension if allowed to continue.

Leftists and Moslems oppose intervention, claiming the army high command is Christian-dominated. Limited numbers of troops have been used to separate leftists and rightists in a few hotly disputed areas, but only under the command of internal security forces.

Monday was the first full working day since the latest truce agreement was declared last Wednesday and the volume of traffic on the streets was higher than last week.

But government offices remained closed, as did the major commercial enterprises and the banks — the lifeblood of the Lebanese economy.

The approach of the Parliamentary election is adding to apprehension in Lebanon.

The constitution requires the election of a new parliament in the 60 days preceding the expiration of the present parliament.

ment's mandate — on April 30. But the civil warfare that broke out last April is likely to make an election dangerous if not impossible.

If the present parliament were not replaced, there would be a constitutional vacuum since the government it supposed to be responsible to parliament.

Prolonging the mandate of parliament is a solution favoured by many leaders on both sides in the conflict.

Prime Minister Rashid Karami said Monday night he believed the National Assembly election due in April should be postponed because of the civil strife in Lebanon.

Speaking to journalists after another day of sporadic shooting and reported kidnappings in Beirut, the Sunni Moslem Prime Minister said: "Since the first prerequisite for holding elections is freedom, what kind of elections should we have if we hold them when the voter's freedom is not ensured?"

He did not say how long he proposed the life of the four-year parliament should be extended, but was believed to favour one year.

He also strongly hinted that parliament should go ahead and elections schedule a successor to President Suleiman Franjeh, whose six-year term ends in September.

Mr. Karami's statement goes to the heart of the political issues behind the Lebanese troubles, for political sources said Mr. Franjeh, a Maronite Christian, wanted the assembly election held as planned.

Mr. Franjeh, a rigidly conservative figure with a feudal power base has been widely blamed by left-wing and moderate politicians for not acting decisively to end the fighting between Christians and Moslems.

He has given Mr. Karami little apparent backing in his attempts to end the battles, and is believed to be anxious to hold the election in April while the Christians still retain the built-in parliamentary majority which the Moslem left wants to abolish.



EARLY EXIT. — Miss Nina Bagrado, a passenger on the hijacked Japanese jet, is helped down the plane's ramp Monday when she was released early because of a heart condition.

Manila hijack drama ends

MANILA, Jan. 6 (Agencies). — Two Philippine brothers hijacked a Japan Airliner jet Monday with 220 passengers aboard at Manila airport but surrendered 11 hours later and freed all the hostages unharmed.

The hijackers, armed with a .32-calibre pistol, surrendered on condition their identities were not revealed.

No one was hurt in the drama which began just before the DC-8 jet was to take off for Osaka, Japan.

The brothers had kept more

than 200 passengers — and 12 crew members captive aboard the plane for five and a half hours.

The passengers were released as evening fell but the crew were kept on board.

An hour later, the plane's engines were started but they were shut off again when Philippine authorities persuaded the hijackers to resume negotiations which had been started by radio.

Airport officials said the Philippine government offered to grant the hijackers amnesty but one of the men radioed back, "no go."

Philippines Air Force General Jose Rancudo, who took part in the negotiations, said the hijackers wanted a free passage to Tokyo.

Reporters monitoring the radio conversation heard one of the hijackers say they were not holding the passengers hostage. "We simply want to fly with them — it's as simple as that," the man said.

JAL officials in Tokyo said the brothers also demanded a pardon but it was not immediately known whether Philippine authorities had granted this.

Gromyko to visit Japan Jan. 9

TOKYO, Jan. 5 (AFP). — Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko will visit Japan January 9-13 at the invitation of the government, the foreign ministry announced Monday.

During his stay in Japan, Mr. Gromyko, accompanied by Mr. Nikolai P. Firubin, deputy foreign minister in charge of far eastern affairs, will confer with Prime Minister Takeo Miki and other Japanese government leaders.

Political sources said that principal topics during his talks with Japanese counterpart Kiichi Miyazawa will be the pending Japan-Soviet peace treaty conclusion, general Japan-Soviet relations and the present international situation.

Geneva talks should resume

(Continued from page one)

ty signed in 1971.

Mr. Fahmi told the meeting, also attended by Prime Minister Mamedouh Salem and 14 other ministers, that President Sadat was ready to do all he could to solve the problem of the Western Sahara.

Turning to Angola, Mr. Fahmi called for an immediate halt to South African intervention there.

"The situation in Angola should remain African and its solution should be left to the Angolans themselves or to a joint African effort within the framework of the Organisation of African Unity," he declared.

Laotian red tape holds up supplies at reopened border

BANGKOK, Jan. 4, (AFP). — Truck convoys laden with supplies for Laos are being held up at the Thai-Laotian border by Laotian red tape despite the ending on Jan. 1 of a six-week Thai economic blockade of the Laotian communist regime in Vientiane, a Thai Customs Officer told AFP Monday.

The official, speaking by telephone from Nong Khai, the Thai

border town near Vientiane, added that another 30 trucks bringing out the baggage of members of France's former Military Mission to Laos were waiting on the Laotian side of the river. The Mission closed down on December 31 and informed sources said its buildings near Vientiane airport were already being occupied in part by Soviet pilots and mechanics.

Hawks seen in control of Soviet policies

PARIS, Jan. 5 (AFP). — Leading Western Kremlinologist Victor Zorza wrote here Monday that the hawks have taken over from the doves in the Soviet government.

He said in the current issue of the weekly magazine Paris-Match. "Yesterday I thought that the West should go to the aid of the doves, but today I believe that any western concession would only help the hawks."

United States-based Mr. Zorza was one of the first political commentators to prophesy the split between Moscow and Peking.

He wrote in Paris-Match: "The Kremlin has chosen a hard line policy. Signs showing this choice are becoming more and more numerous."

He gave as examples the priority given to heavy industry in the new Soviet five-year plan, Soviet intervention in Angola, the stalled East-West SALT disarmament talks, and more repressive measures against dissidents.

"It all shows that activists have scored a victory in the Kremlin, and meanwhile, the Soviet arms drive (whose aim at first seemed to be to catch up with the United States) has been given an unprecedented boost."

The official said the bold steps at the border were due to administrative difficulties on the Laotian side of the border, which was closed by Thailand in November in the wake of a battle on the river between communist Patbet Lao soldiers and a Thai patrol vessel in which a Thai naval officer was killed. A French source said the Thais were showing "Exemplary understanding" to French citizens crossing with their personal baggage.

Land-locked Laos depends almost exclusively on Thailand for its imports. In 1974, Thailand exported about \$30 million worth of goods to Laos and another six or seven million dollars worth of goods passes

in transit through Thailand Laos each year.

According to a communist diplomat in Vientiane, it takes at least two years of works before the Vientiane government can fulfil its aim of meeting its import requirements by bringing overland from North Vietnam ports. During the take North Vietnam sent a "military" truck convoy to Laotian capital but the state of the roads meant the journey took eight and informed sources said out of every three trucks down along the way.

Closing down the frontier did not stop the human flow from Laos that has been on since the Communists their takeover last spring.

According to unofficial res, there are already 11 Laotian refugees in Thailand (out of a total population under three million), alt Thai officials speak of 50,000 refugees. Another persons from the region a Luang Prabang, the former royal capital, crossed the border during the past three days.

Athenian papers charged with violation of press law

ATHENS, Jan. 5, (R). — A

public prosecutor decided Monday to bring charges against four Athenian newspapers which published reports on the assassination of CIA agent Richard Welch despite a ban by judicial authorities.

Prosecutor George Zorbas said Monday the four newspapers — Akropolis, Kathimerini, Elfenrotipia and To Vima — will be charged with violating the country's press law. The law empowers judicial authorities to ban the publication of reports on a case under investigation.

Mr. Welch, 46, was gunned down in an Athens suburb on December 23 as he returned home from a Christmas party.

Police have put a price of five million drachmas on the heads of the three unidentified

men who killed him.

The ban by judicial authorities was imposed on December 27 but newspapers ceased to publish reports on the assassination and to speculate on who killed Mr. Welch.

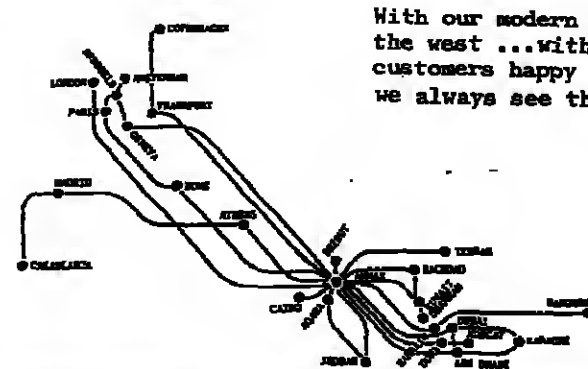
On the otherhand Greek police have set up "special security groups" in the wake of the slaying bere of the American intelligence Chief Richard Welch, an informed source Monday.

The groups consist of policemen being trained specially for anti-terrorist

Such forces were deemed necessary until the shooting of Mr. Welch on December 23 because Greece had been the scene of few terrorist attacks, the source said.



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Tuesday 6th 8.00 p.m.

Matinee: Tuesday 6th 3.45 p.m.

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LONDON MARKET REPORT

LONDON, Jan. 5 (R). — The market closed mixed in light trading, dealers said. At 15.00 hrs the F.T. Index was down 2.9 at 381.9.

Moderate demand was noted for long dated government bonds where gains ranged to 50 p. Shorts eased a fraction following switching into longs, dealers said.

Equities ran into profit taking causing falls of up to 7 p.

Insurances were unsettled reflecting possible large claims after the widespread storm damage over the weekend.

Gold shares reacted with the bullion price to close marginally down. Australians and dollar stocks were narrowly higher.